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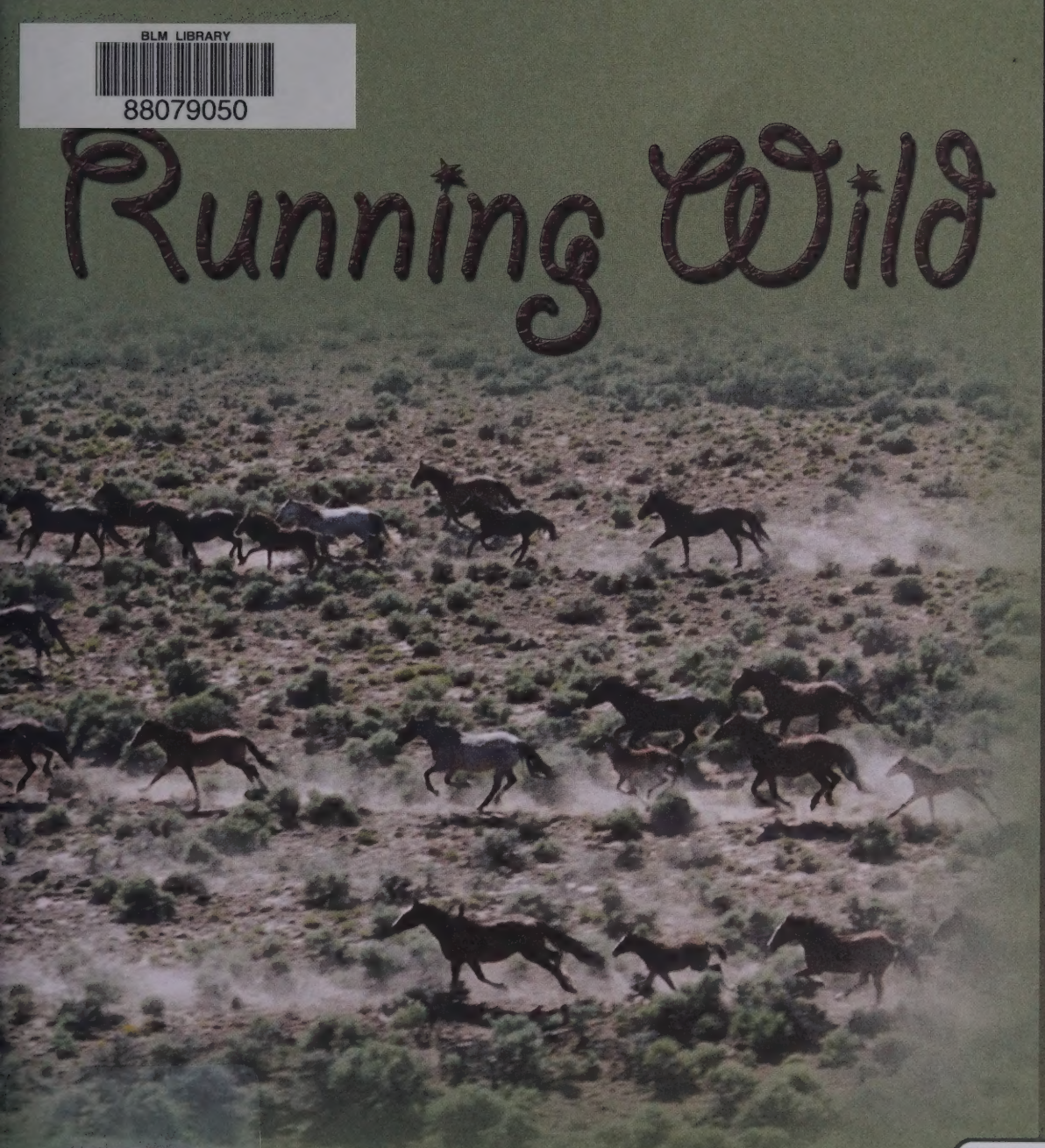
Running Wild



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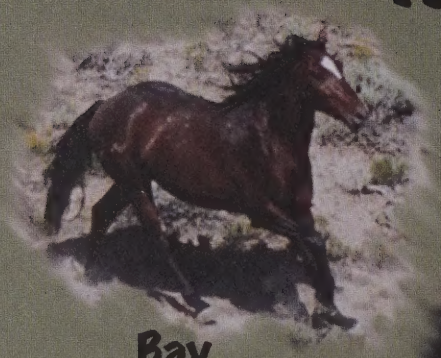
Horse Colors



Bay

Appaloosa

Roan

Black

Gray

White

Dun

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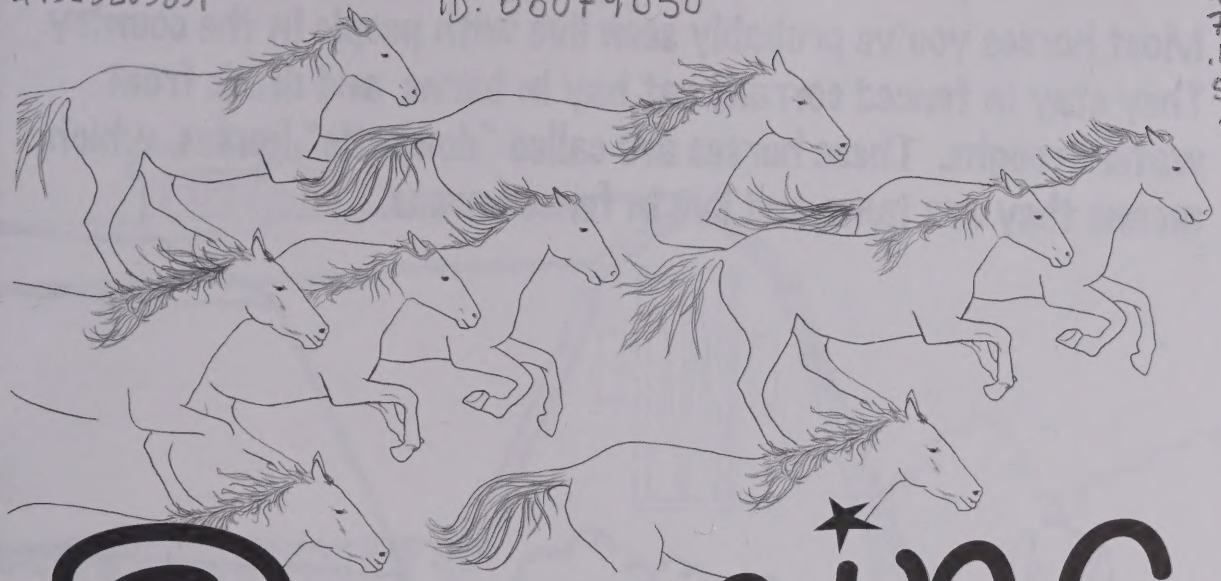
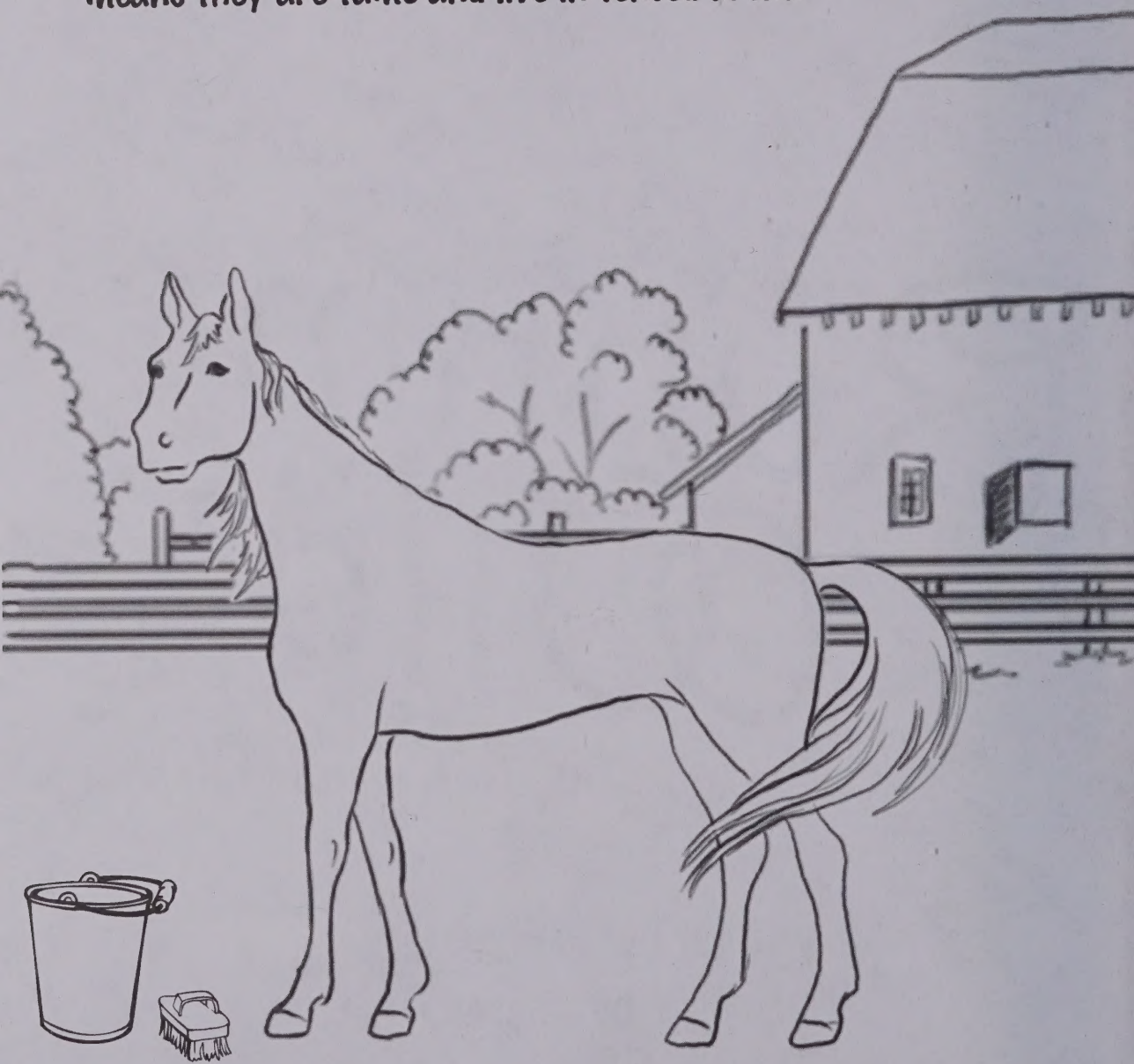


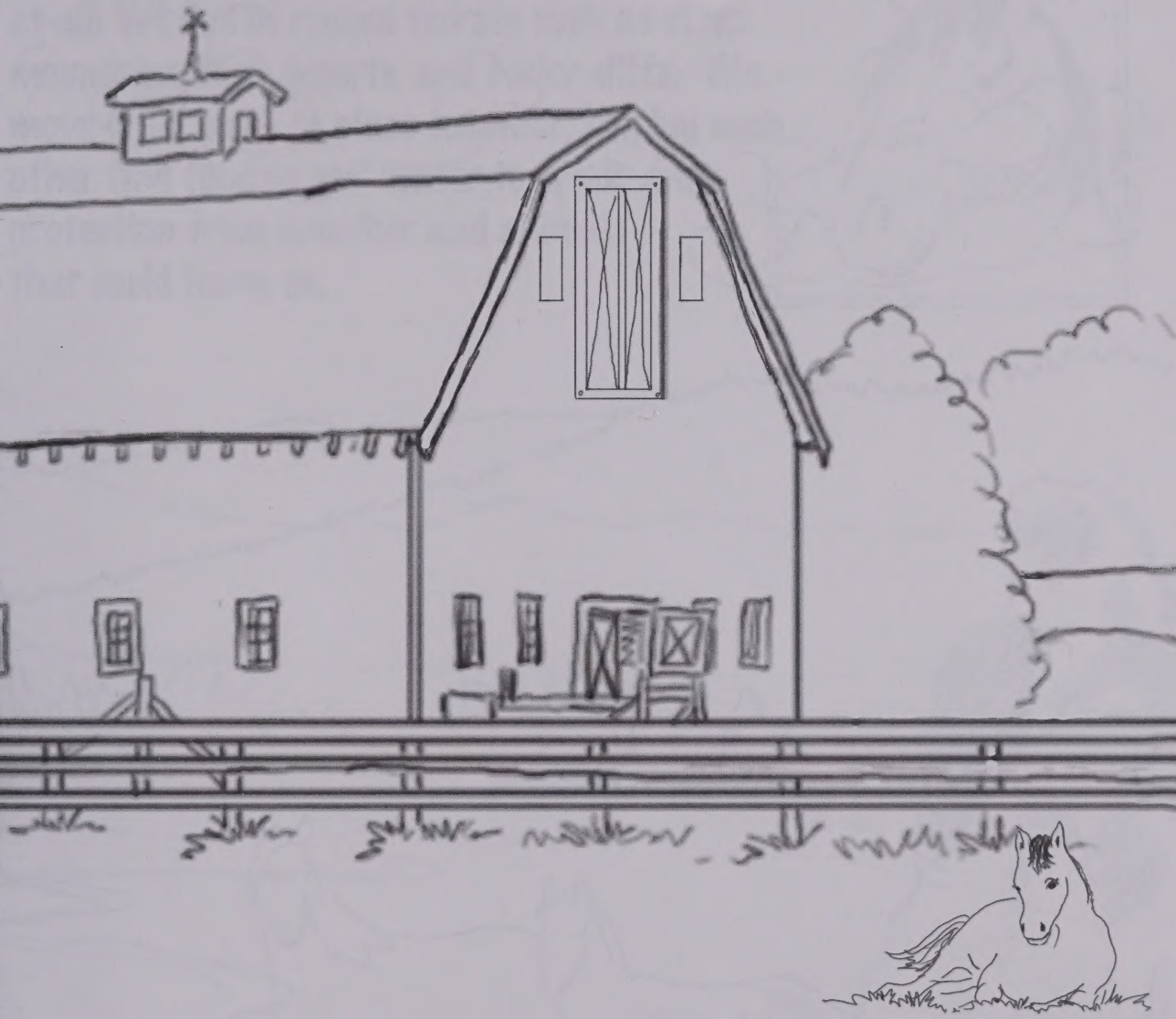
Running Wild

on the Lakeview District

written by: Amber Sitz
illustrated by: Stevie Ruda
published by: Theresa Romasko & Tonya Pinckney

Most horses you've probably seen live with people in the country. They stay in fenced corrals, eat hay in barns, and drink from water troughs. These horses are called "domestic" horses, which means they are tame and live in fenced areas.





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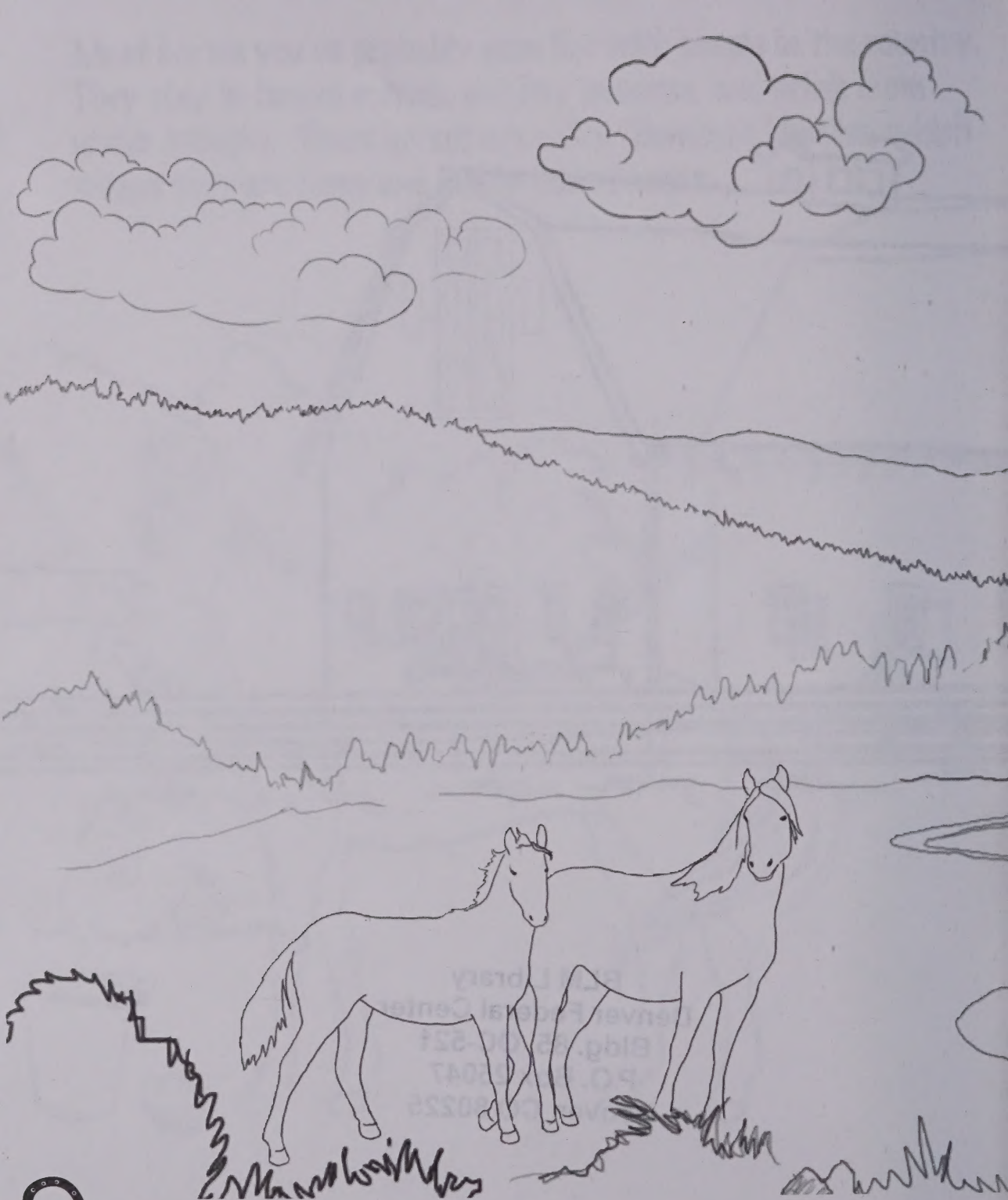
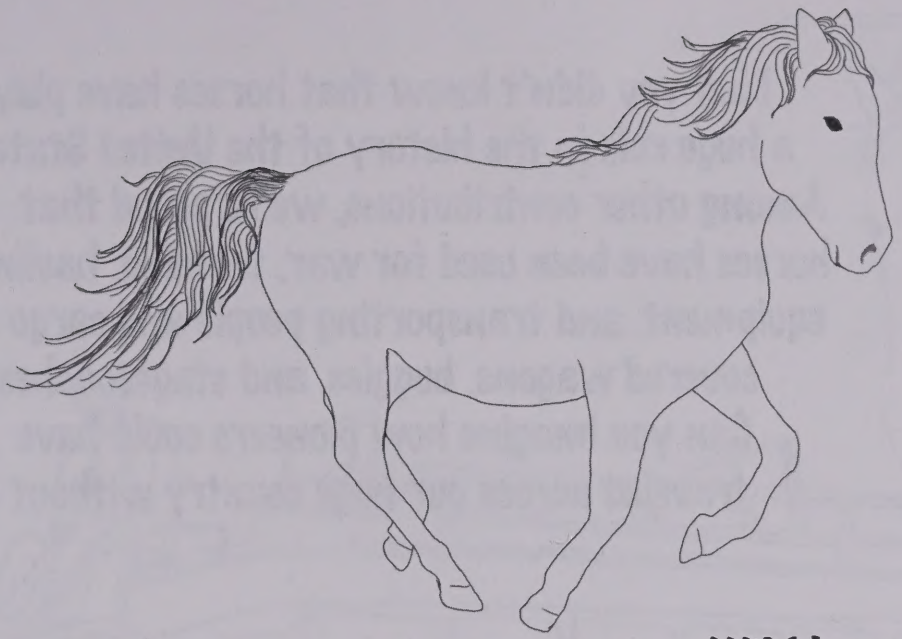
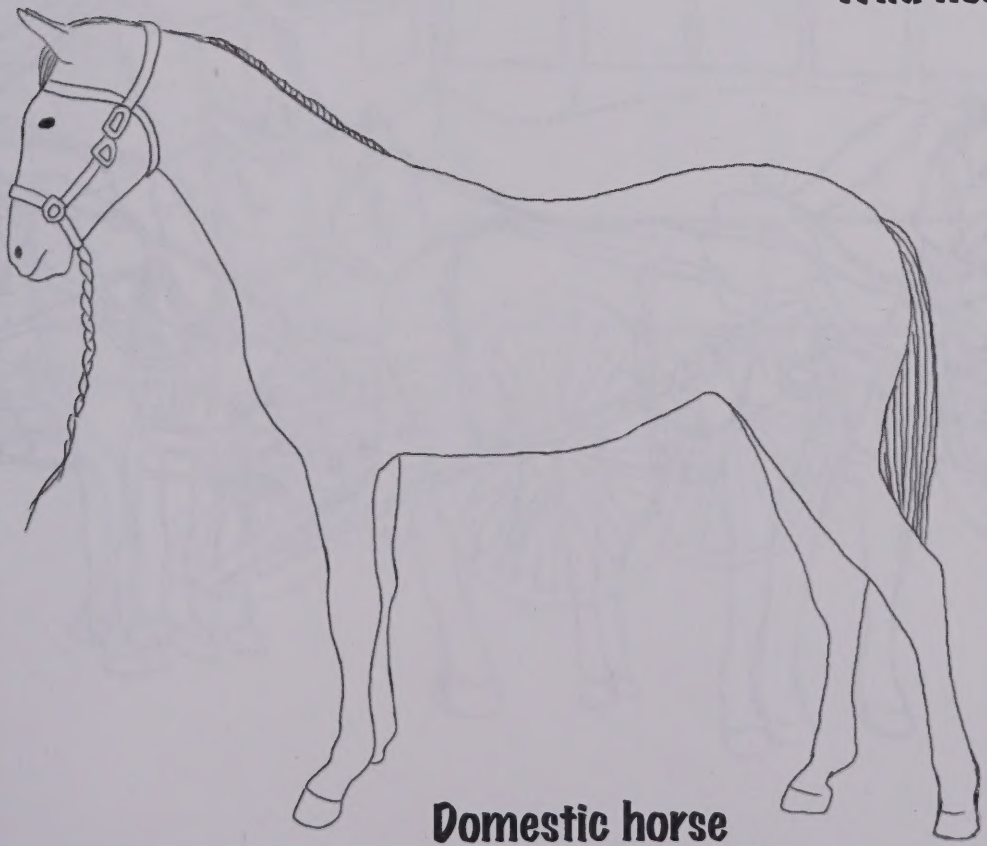


Unlike domestic horses, we wild horses aren't tame at all! We live in rugged terrain such as steep mountains, high deserts, and rocky cliffs. We move from place to place together, helping each other find food to eat, water to drink, and protection from weather and animals that could harm us.

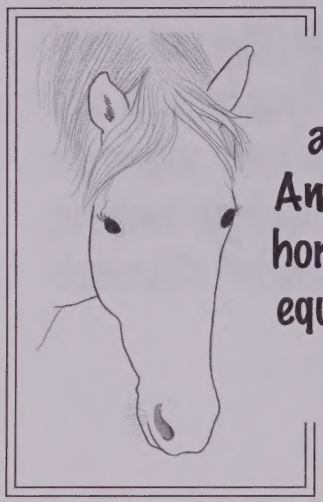
Wild horses look a little different than domestic horses. We are lighter and shorter. Our muscles are heavier, our bones are stronger, and our hooves are harder than domestic horses. To help protect ourselves in the wild, we have the ability to see better than domestic horses, and our hearing is sharper.



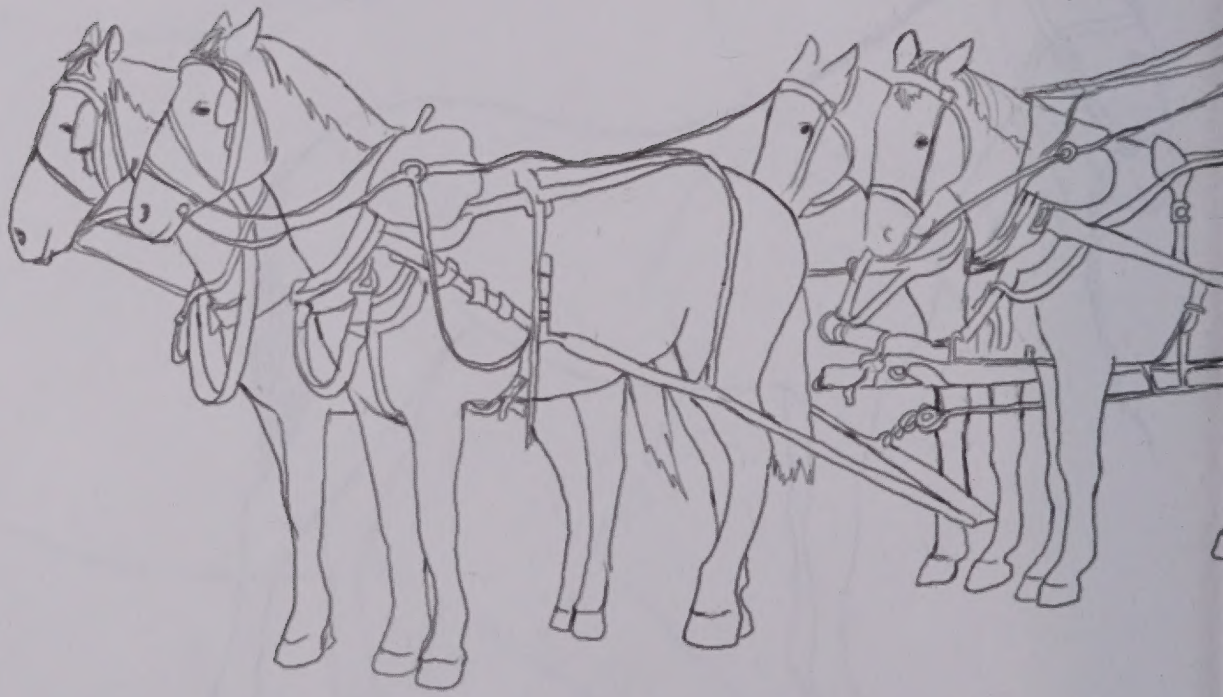
Wild horse

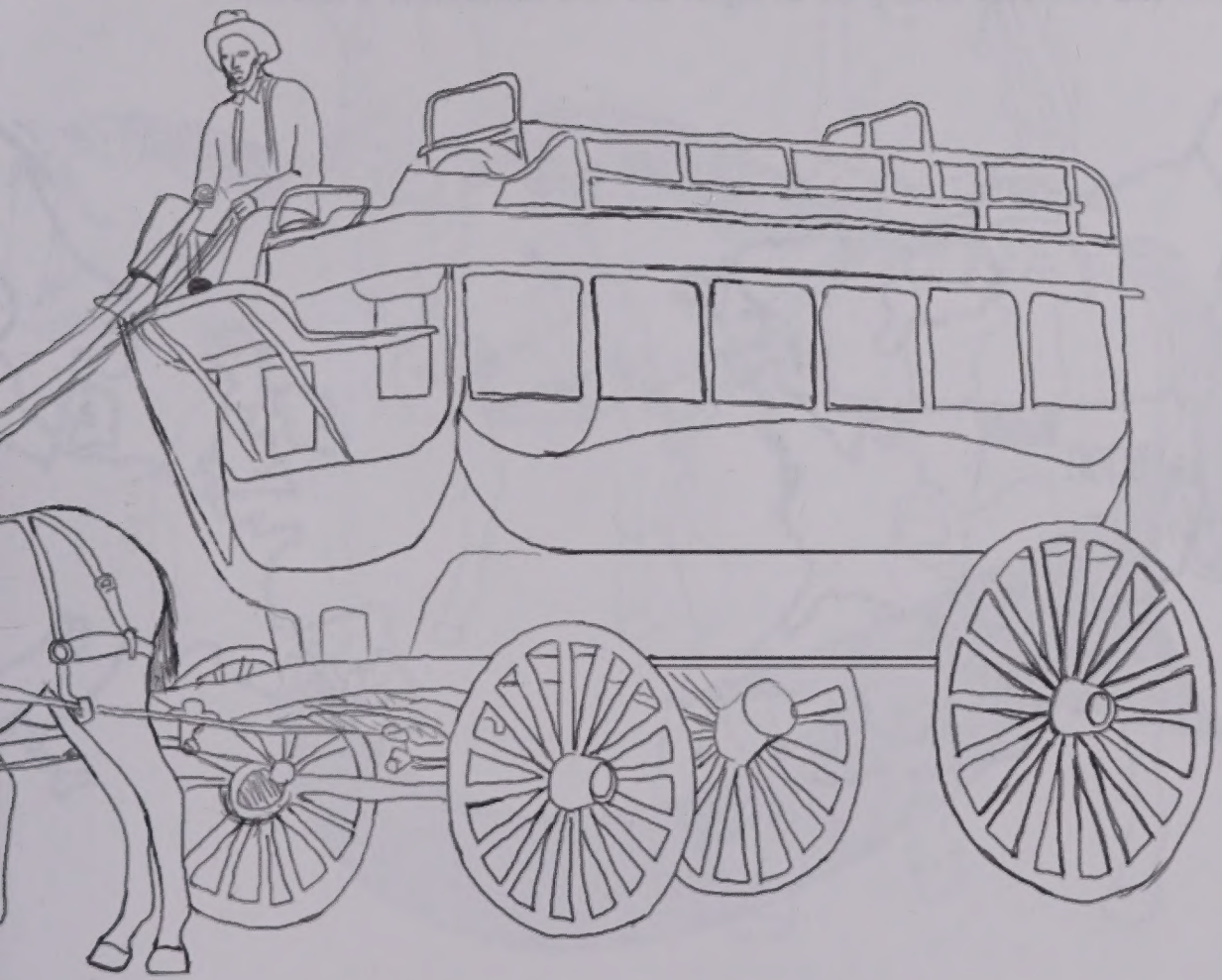


Domestic horse

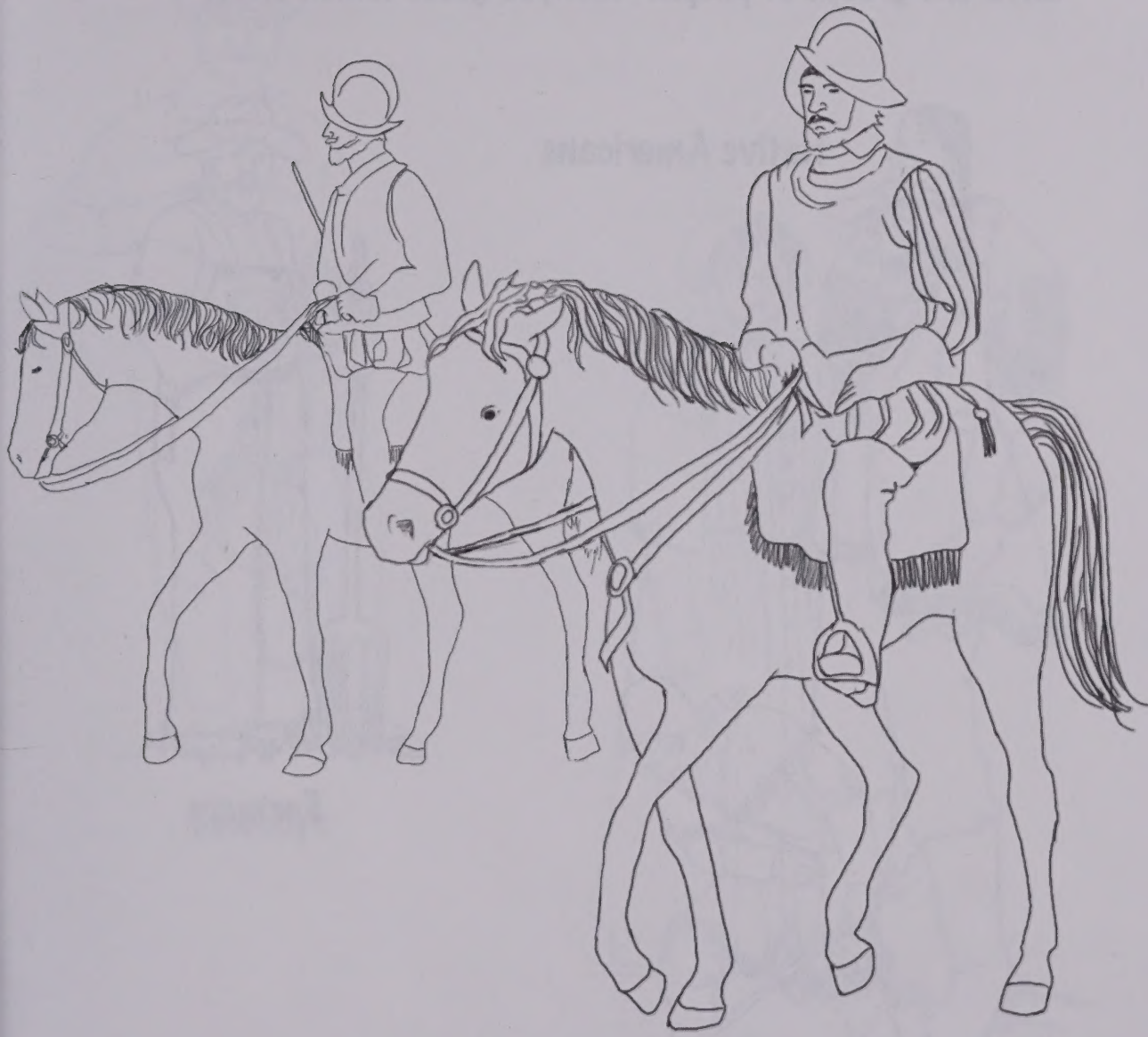


I bet you didn't know that horses have played a huge role in the history of the United States. Among other contributions, we're proud that horses have been used for war, farming, hauling equipment, and transporting people and cargo in covered wagons, buggies, and stagecoaches. Can you imagine how pioneers could have traveled across our huge country without us?





As wild horses, we have quite a long history. Spanish explorers and missionaries brought us to the New World in the 16th century. They gave us the name "mustangs." The word "mustang" comes from the Spanish word "mesteño," which means "stranger." Spanish mustangs were joined by free-roaming horses to make up the wild horses known today in Oregon on the Lakeview District.

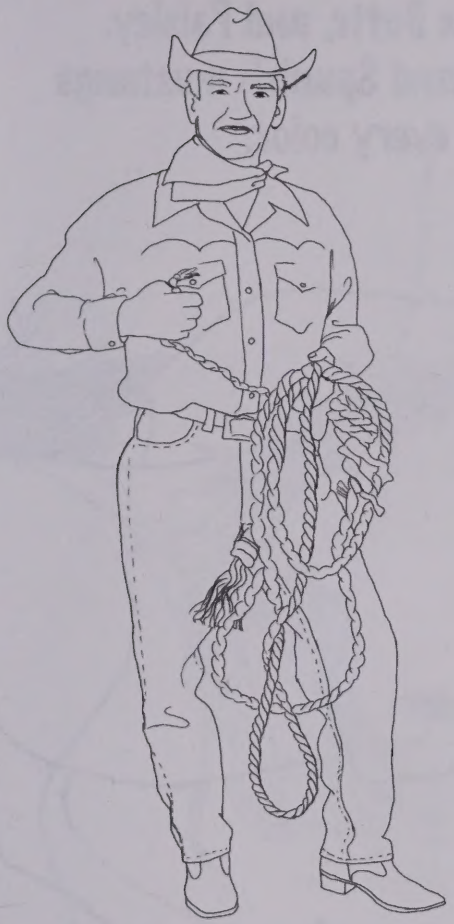


Over the years we have escaped from, or been turned loose by, different groups of people. Can you guess which ones?

Native Americans

Farmers

Trappers

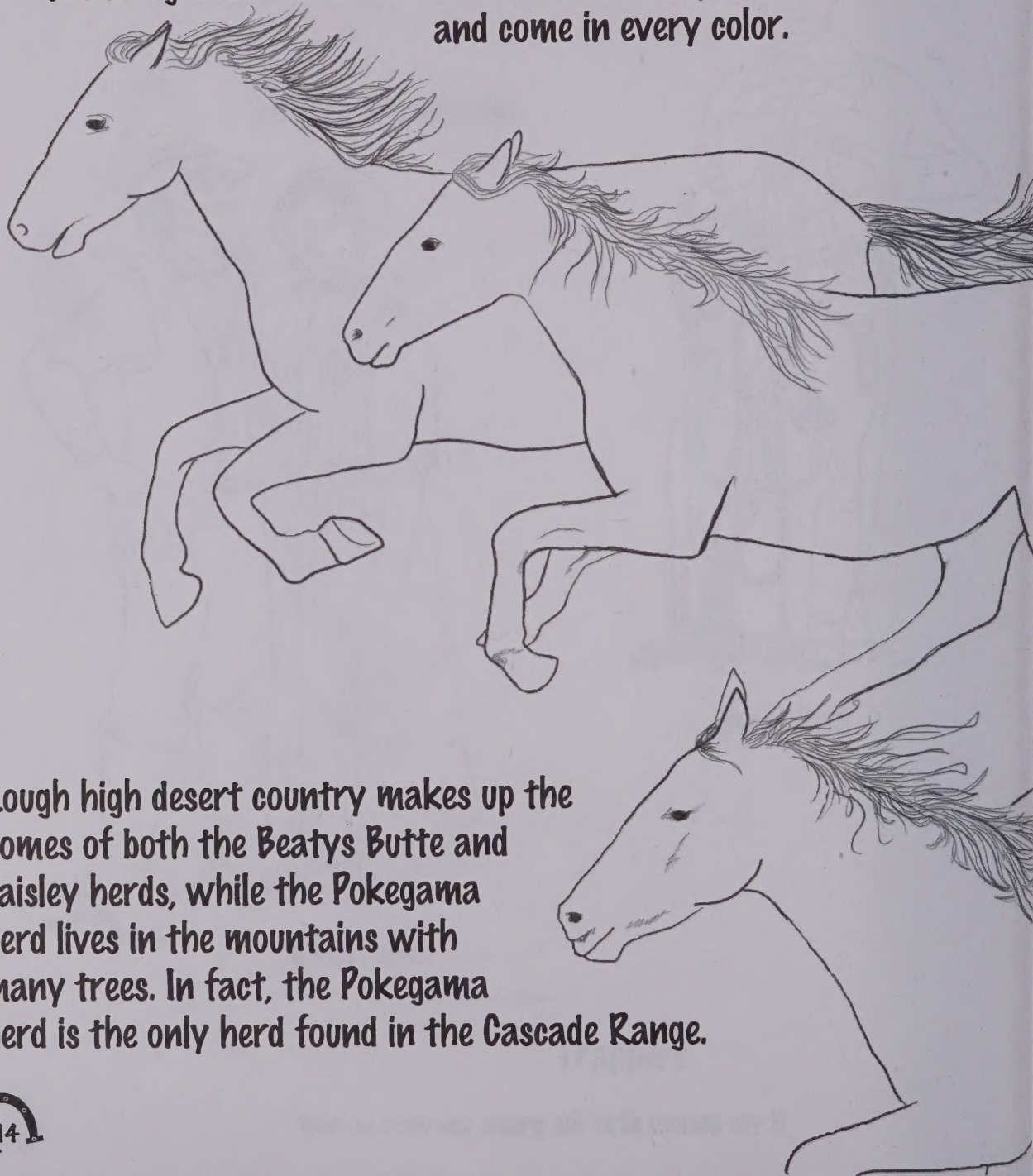


Cowboys

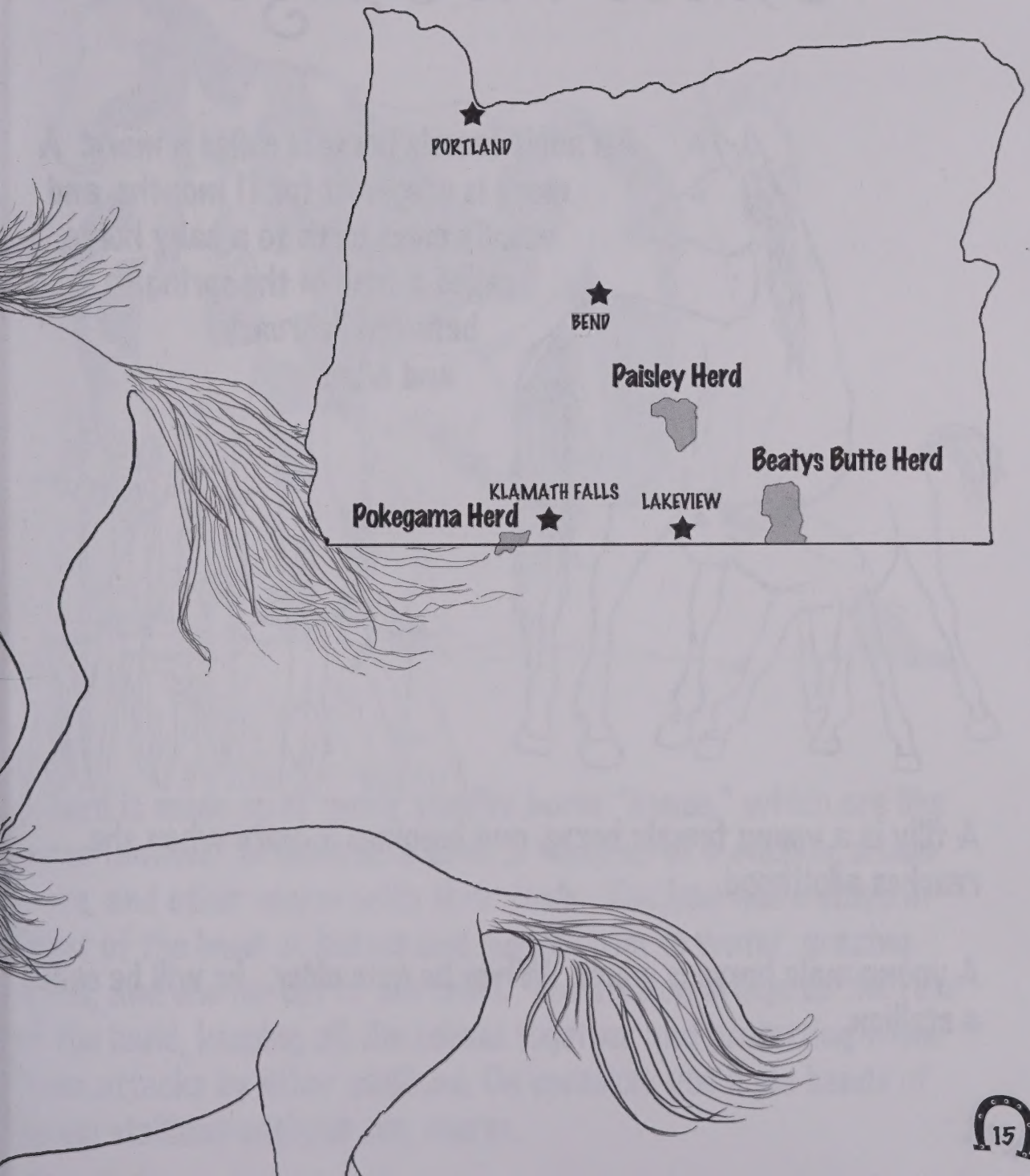
Settlers

If you guessed all of the groups, you were correct!

A herd is a group of many horses. The Lakeview District has three herd areas – Pokegama, Beatys Butte, and Paisley. We are grandchildren of ranch horses and Spanish mustangs and come in every color.



Rough high desert country makes up the homes of both the Beatys Butte and Paisley herds, while the Pokegama herd lives in the mountains with many trees. In fact, the Pokegama herd is the only herd found in the Cascade Range.


PORTLAND
BEND
Paisley Herd
Beatys Butte Herd
KLAMATH FALLS
LAKEVIEW
Pokegama Herd

"Lasso the Lingo"

An adult female horse is called a mare. A mare is pregnant for 11 months, and usually gives birth to a baby horse, called a foal, in the spring between February and May.

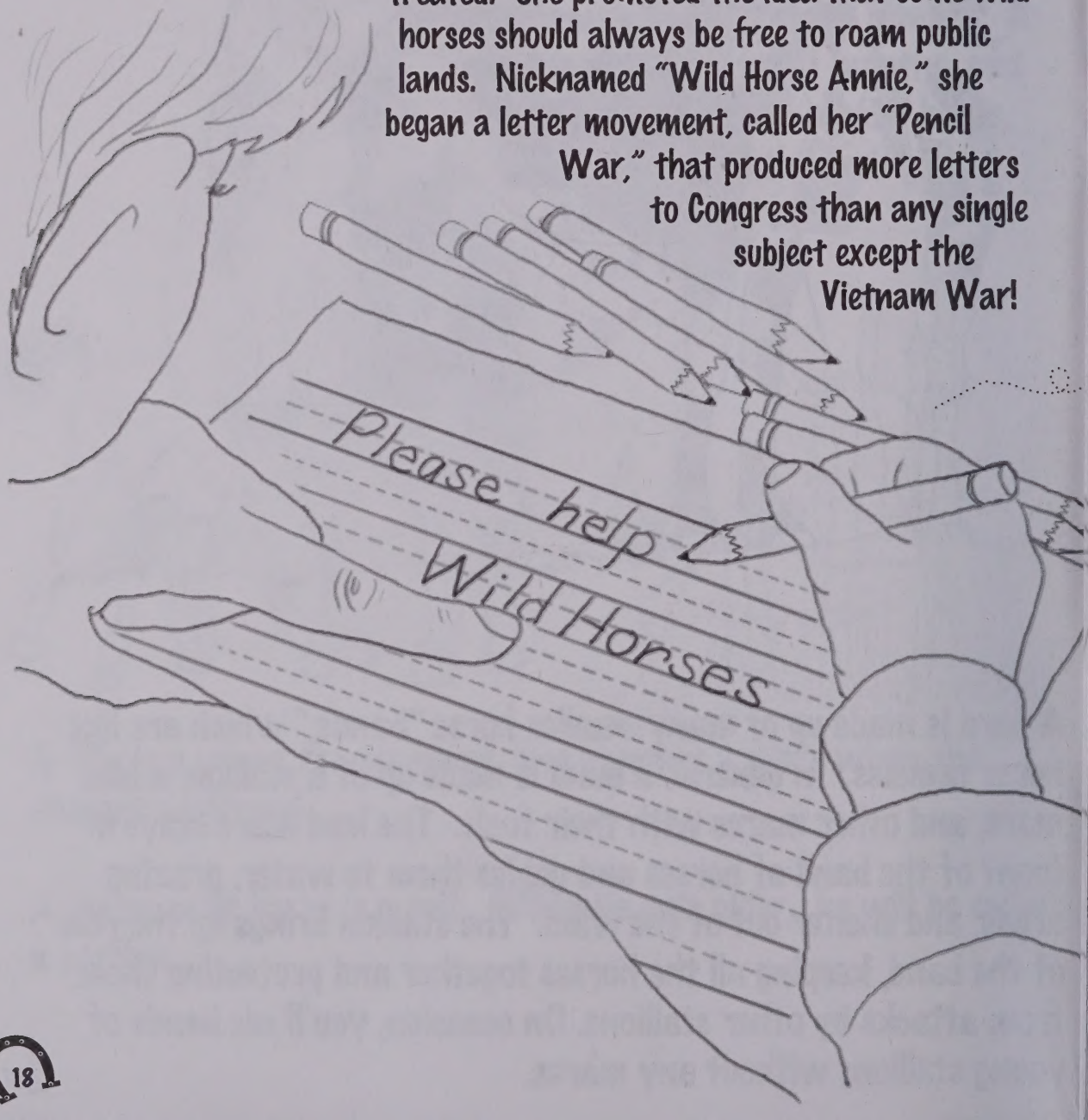
A filly is a young female horse, and becomes a mare when she reaches adulthood.

A young male horse is a colt. When he gets older, he will be called a stallion.

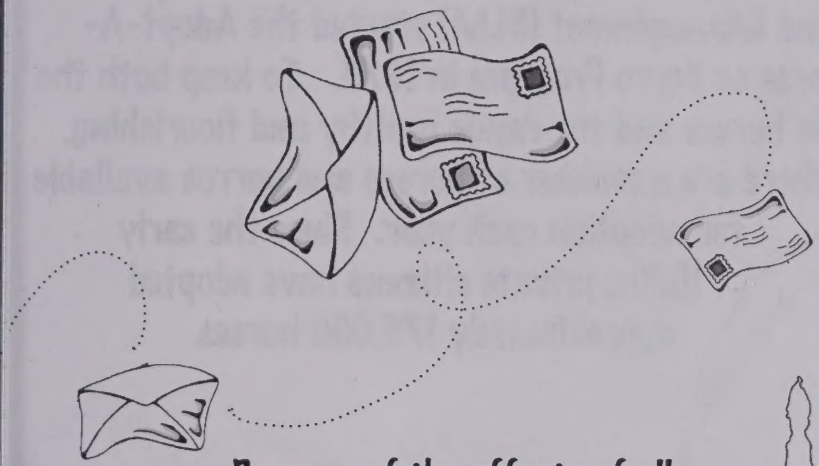
A herd is made up of many smaller horse "bands," which are like horse families. In general, a band is made up of a stallion, a lead mare, and other mares with their foals. The lead mare stays in front of the band of horses and guides them to water, grazing areas, and shelter out of the wind. The stallion brings up the rear of the band, keeping all the horses together and protecting them from attacks by other stallions. On occasion, you'll see bands of young stallions without any mares.

Wild Horse Annie

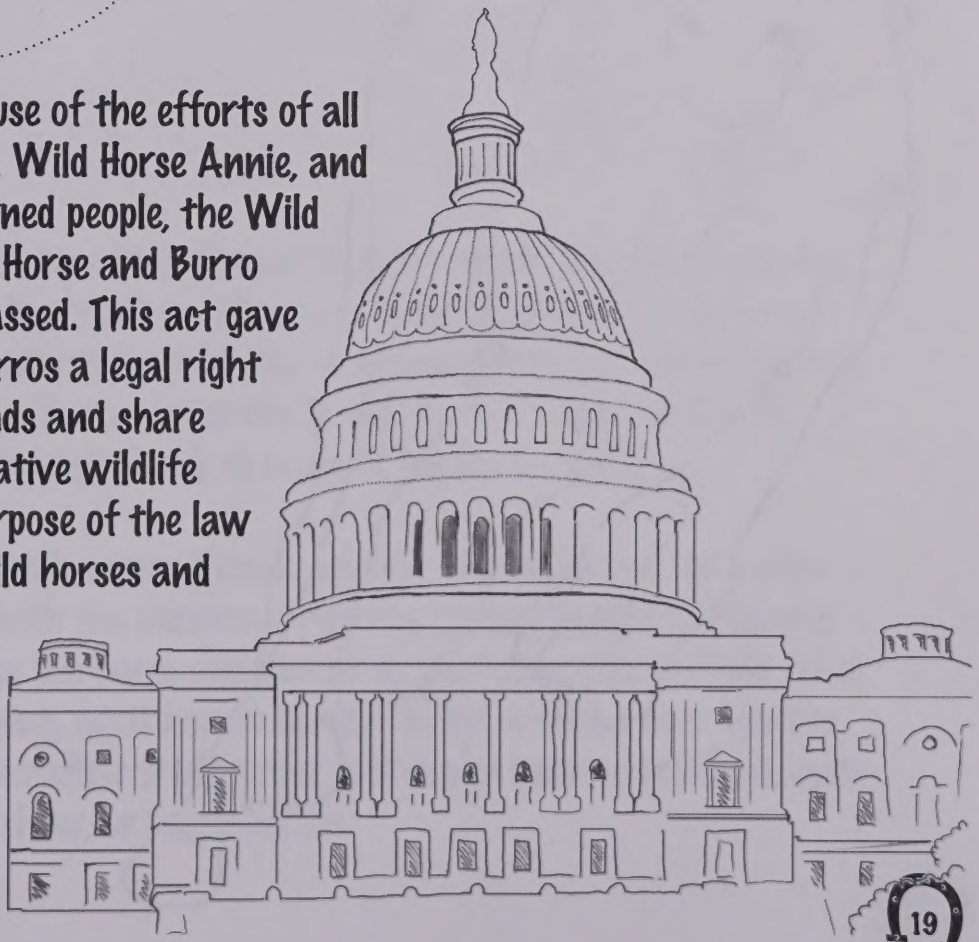
In 1950 Velma Johnston, a secretary and rancher's wife from Reno, Nevada, began a campaign to keep wild horses and burros safe and well-treated. She promoted the idea that some wild horses should always be free to roam public lands. Nicknamed "Wild Horse Annie," she began a letter movement, called her "Pencil War," that produced more letters to Congress than any single subject except the Vietnam War!



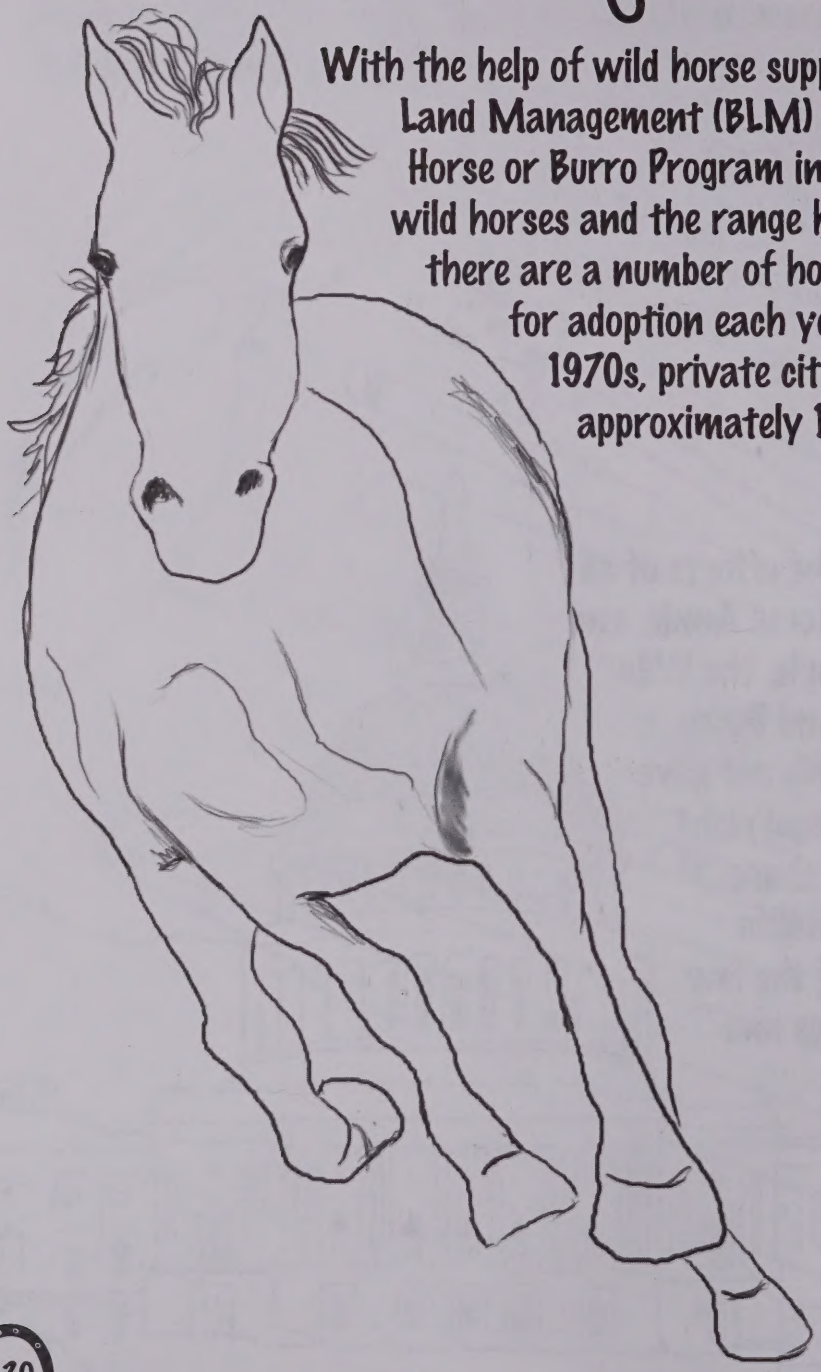
Thousands of letters were written by school children just like you who were concerned for the horses' welfare.



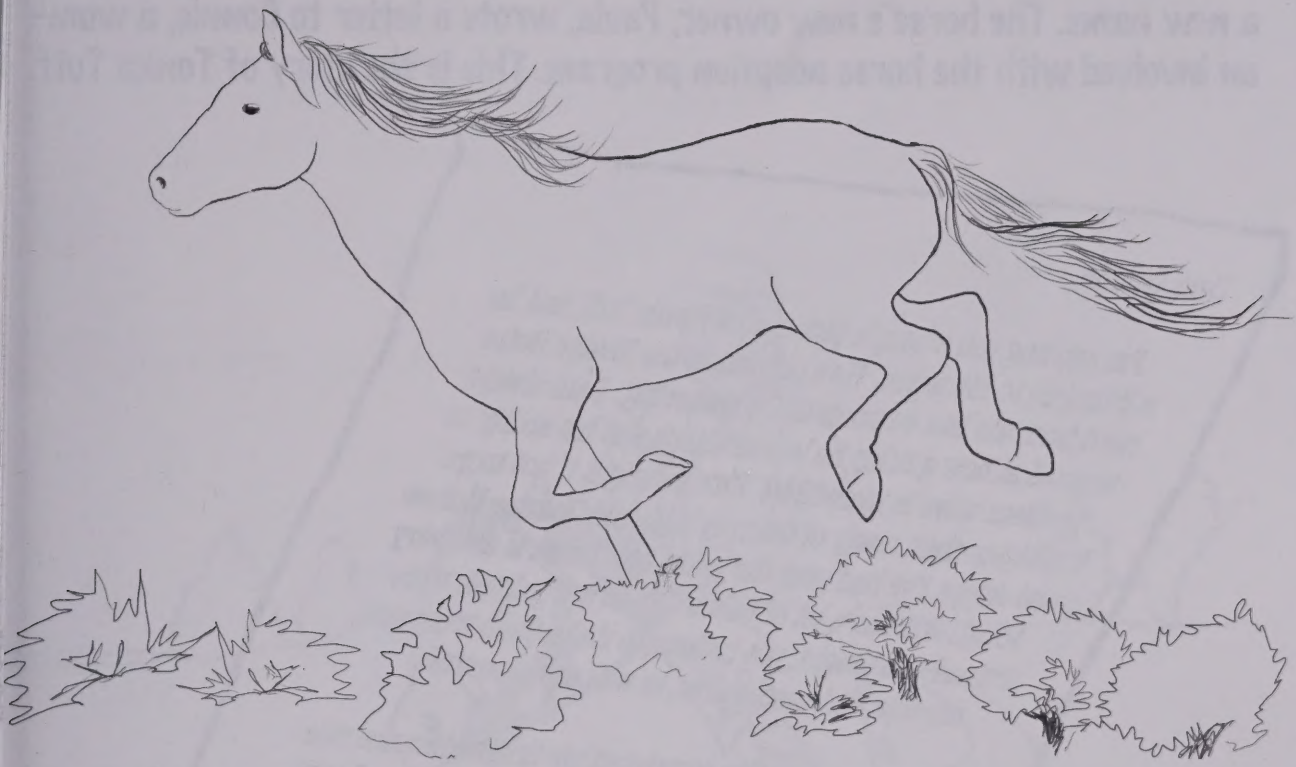
Because of the efforts of all the school children, Wild Horse Annie, and many other concerned people, the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 was passed. This act gave wild horses and burros a legal right to live on public lands and share these lands with native wildlife and cattle. The purpose of the law was to preserve wild horses and burros on federal lands as "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West."



Adoption



With the help of wild horse supporters, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) started the Adopt-A-Horse or Burro Program in 1973. To keep both the wild horses and the range healthy and flourishing, there are a number of horses and burros available for adoption each year. Since the early 1970s, private citizens have adopted approximately 175,000 horses.



Each year the BLM rounds up horses in areas where too many grazing animals threaten the habitat. They are taken to wild horse care and adoption centers, where they receive veterinary care and plenty of food and water. Oregon horses go to the Burns, Oregon Adoption Center. Adoptions sites are good places to see wild horses up close.

Taming a wild horse is easier than it sounds. It's important to match your personality with the personality of the horse you adopt. Today's methods encourage the horse and owner to work together to build trust. With proper training, most horses can be ridden within a few months. Wild horses are incredible trail horses, and many become excellent, even famous, pleasure, show, or work horses.

One of the Lakeview District wild horses was adopted, given a new home, and a new name. The horse's new owner, Paula, wrote a letter to Connie, a woman involved with the horse adoption program. This is the story of Tonka Tuff.

Dear Connie,

I'm sending you a couple pictures of Tonka Tuff, and he is living up to his name. He's one out of the Beatys Butte herd from the late summer 2004 gathering. I am always amazed at how quickly he learns things and his ability to problem solve is incredible! He's as bright if not more intelligent than many of the very high-end Quarter Horses and Appys I've had over the years, but Tonka is also very tough and has a lot of heart. These are animals to be trained and taught, not broken, to make them truly safe, durable, and respectable, as well as respectful.

We just recently completed his first endurance ride over at Grizzly just outside of Madras, Oregon. I can honestly say that I have had very few (horses) that could do what Tonka did this weekend, and he did it without complaint or a single misstep. We will be continuing training and reining for 50 mile endurance rides.

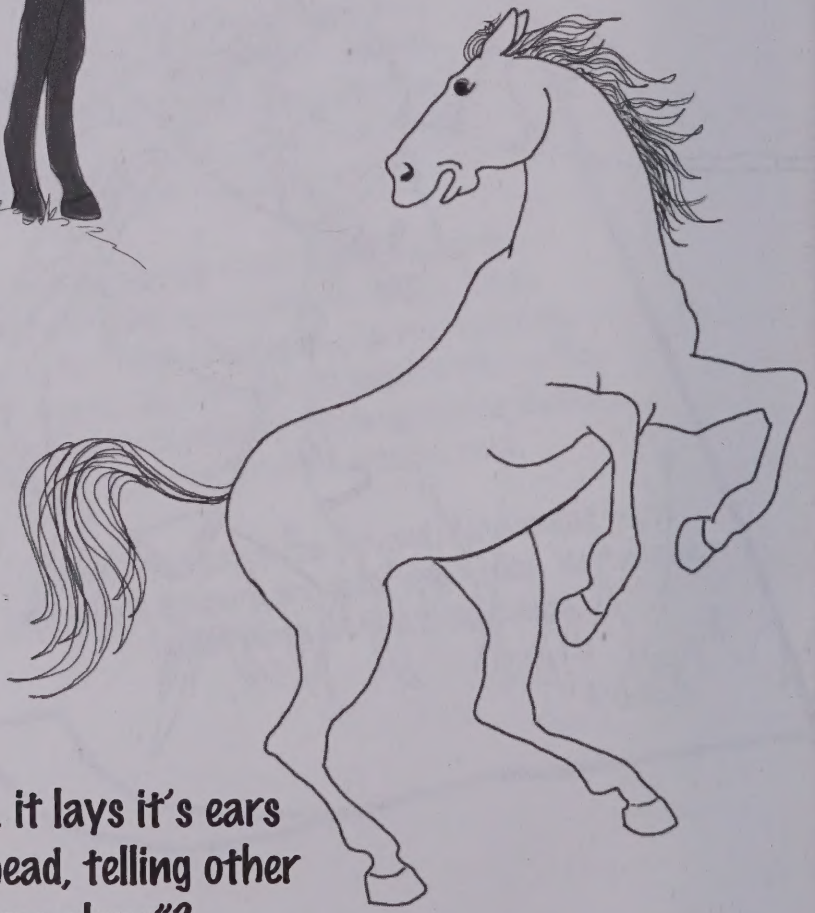
Please take a look at his pictures. He's turning out to be positively gorgeous, and gosh, what a body! Maybe some halter shows are also in his future!

Paula

Paula enjoys riding Tonka during an endurance ride.

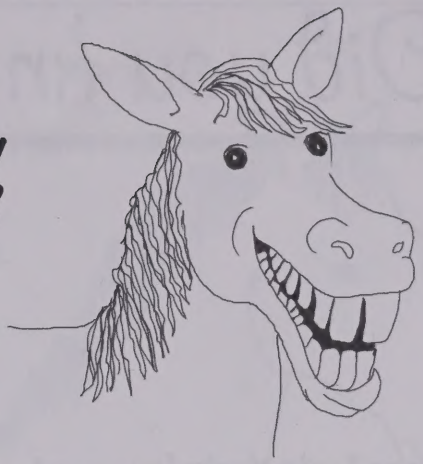
Did you know???

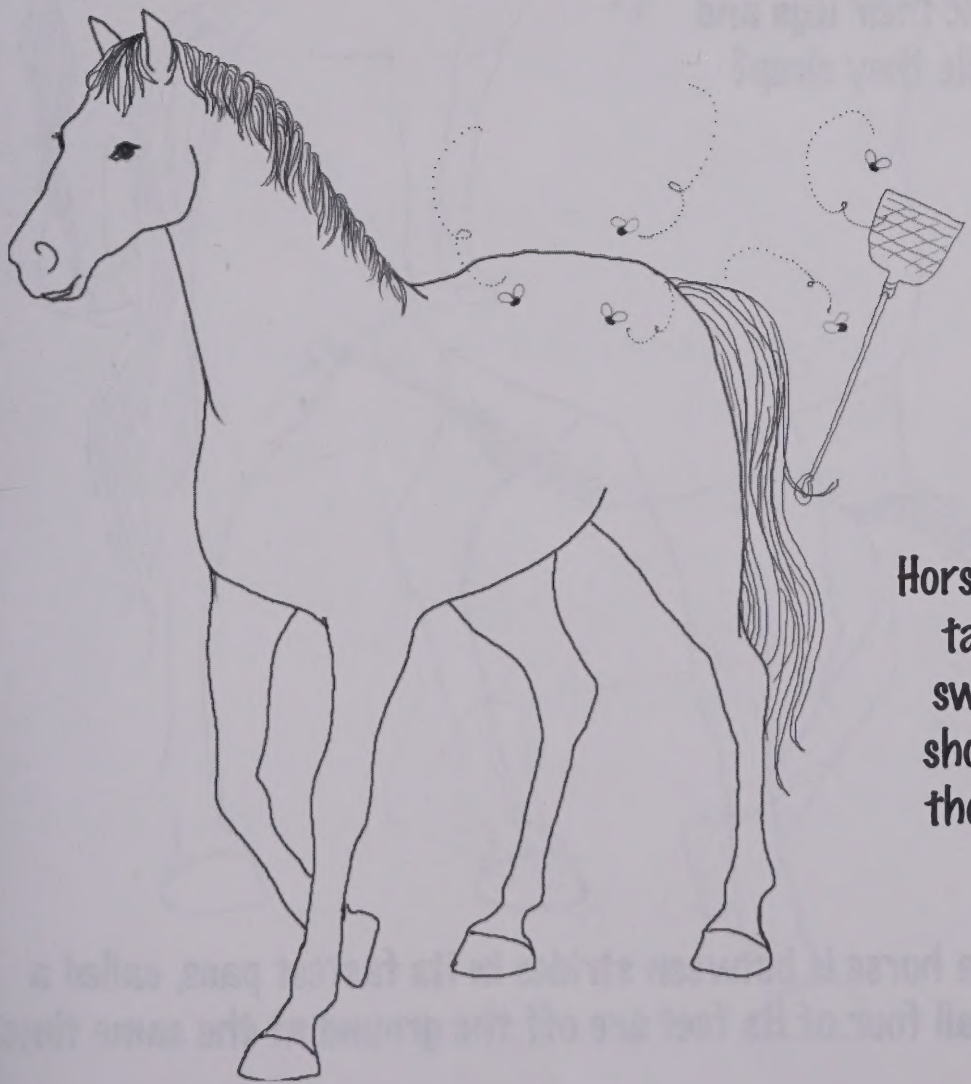
White horses are born black?



When a horse is mad, it lays it's ears back flat against it's head, telling other horses to "leave me alone"?

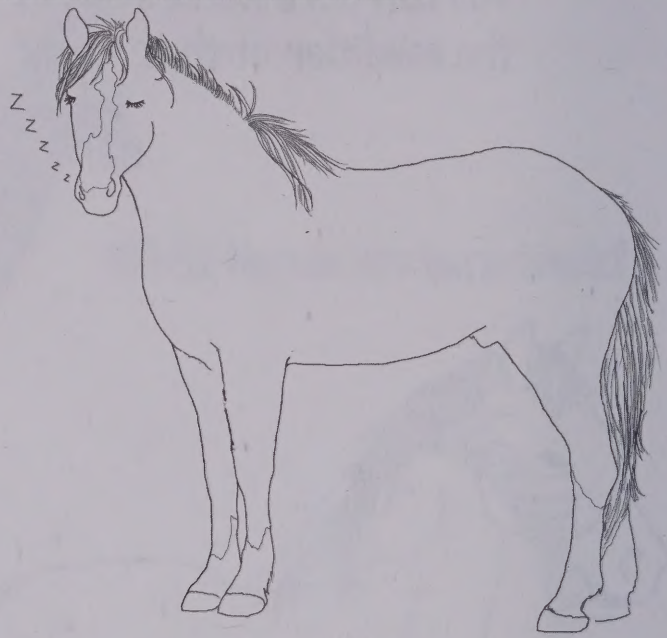
You can tell a horse's age by the condition of their teeth?



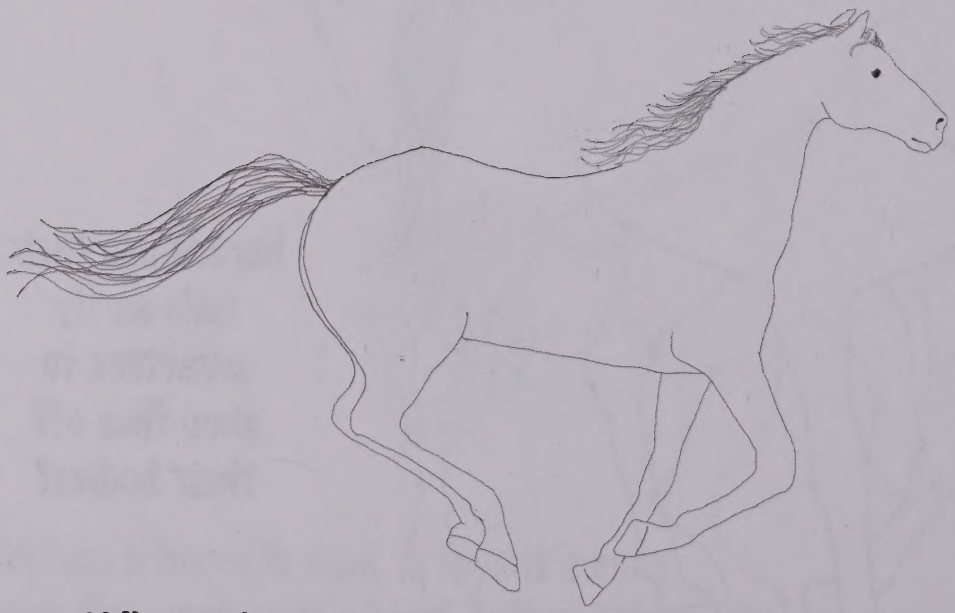


Horses use their tails as fly swatters to shoo flies off their bodies?

Did you know???

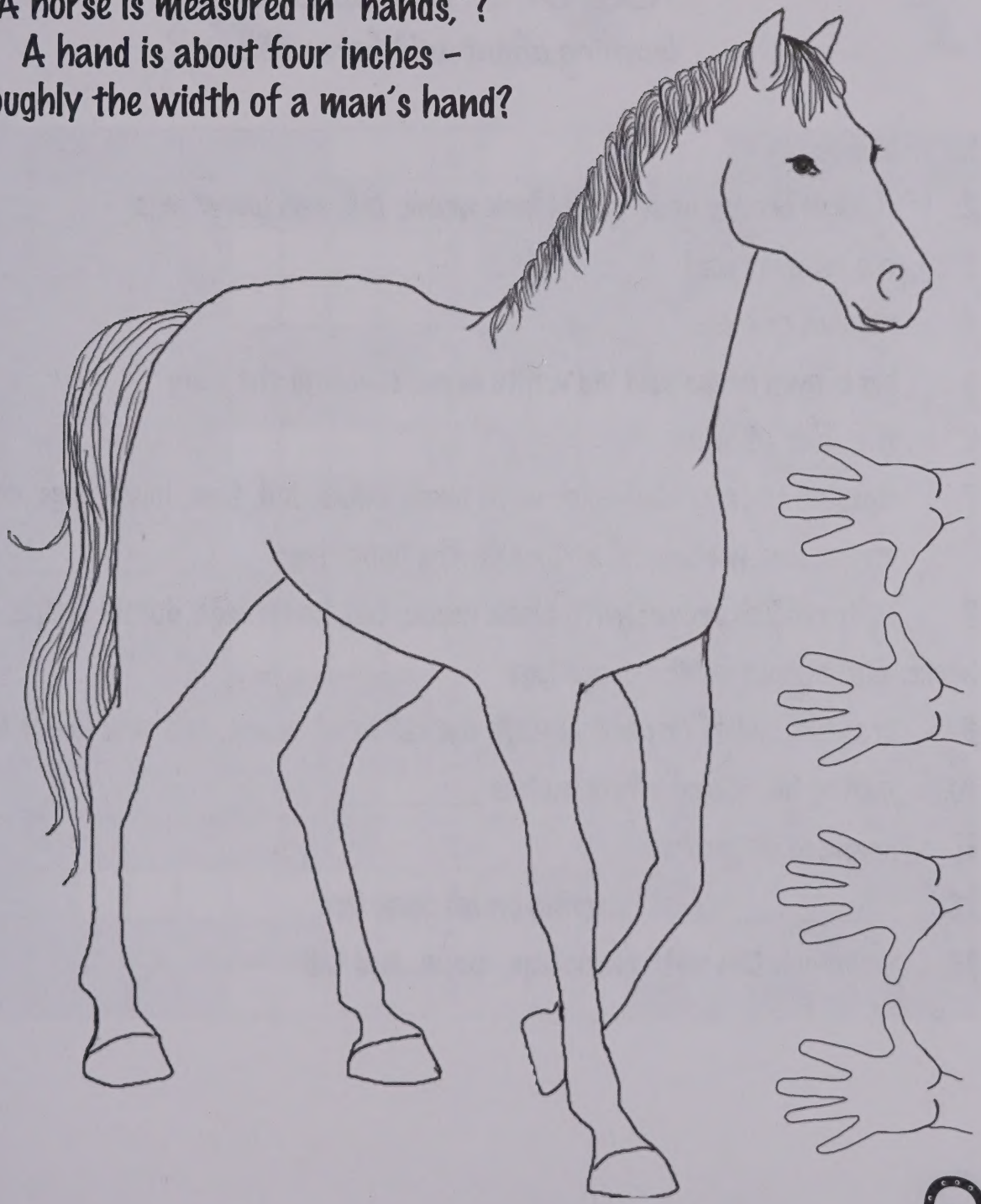


Horses lock their legs and stand while they sleep?



When a horse is between strides in its fastest pace, called a gallop, all four of its feet are off the ground at the same time?

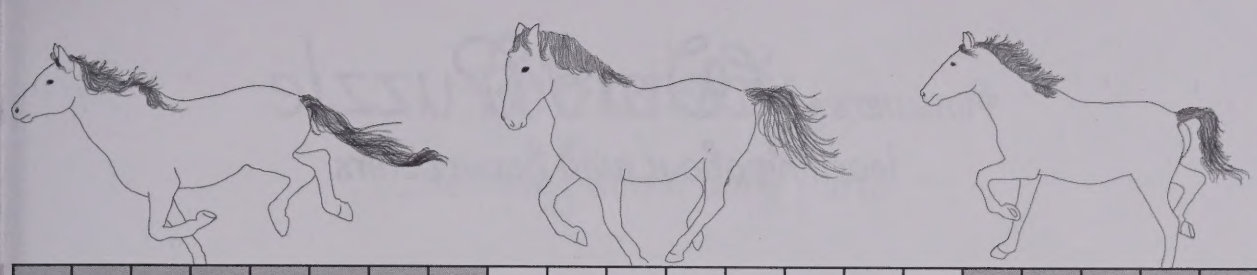
A horse is measured in "hands,"?
A hand is about four inches –
roughly the width of a man's hand?

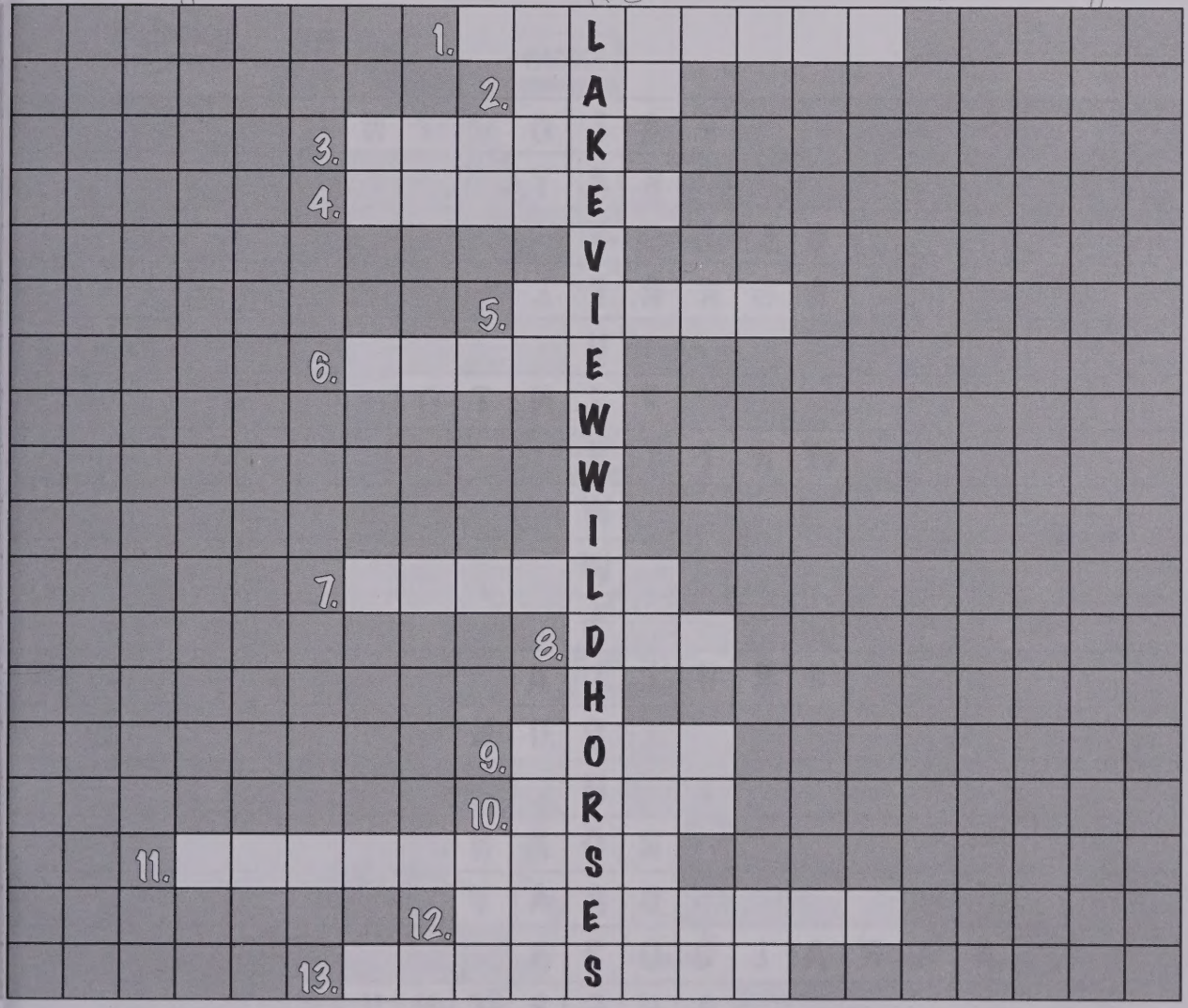


Word Puzzle

... learning about wild horse colors

1. blonde
2. reddish brown body with black mane, tail, and lower legs
3. the color of coal
4. reddish brown
5. big brown areas and big white areas covering the body
6. the color of snow
7. slate or slate-brown color with black mane, tail, face, lower legs, dorsal stripe, and horizontal stripes on the upper legs
8. light reddish brown with black mane, tail, lower legs, dorsal stripe, and horizontal stripes on the upper legs
9. grayish, bluish, or reddish with darker head, mane, tail, and lower legs
10. mixing black and white makes _____
11. speckled or spotted
12. "_____ s" roasting on an open fire
13. yellowish tan with black legs, mane, and tail

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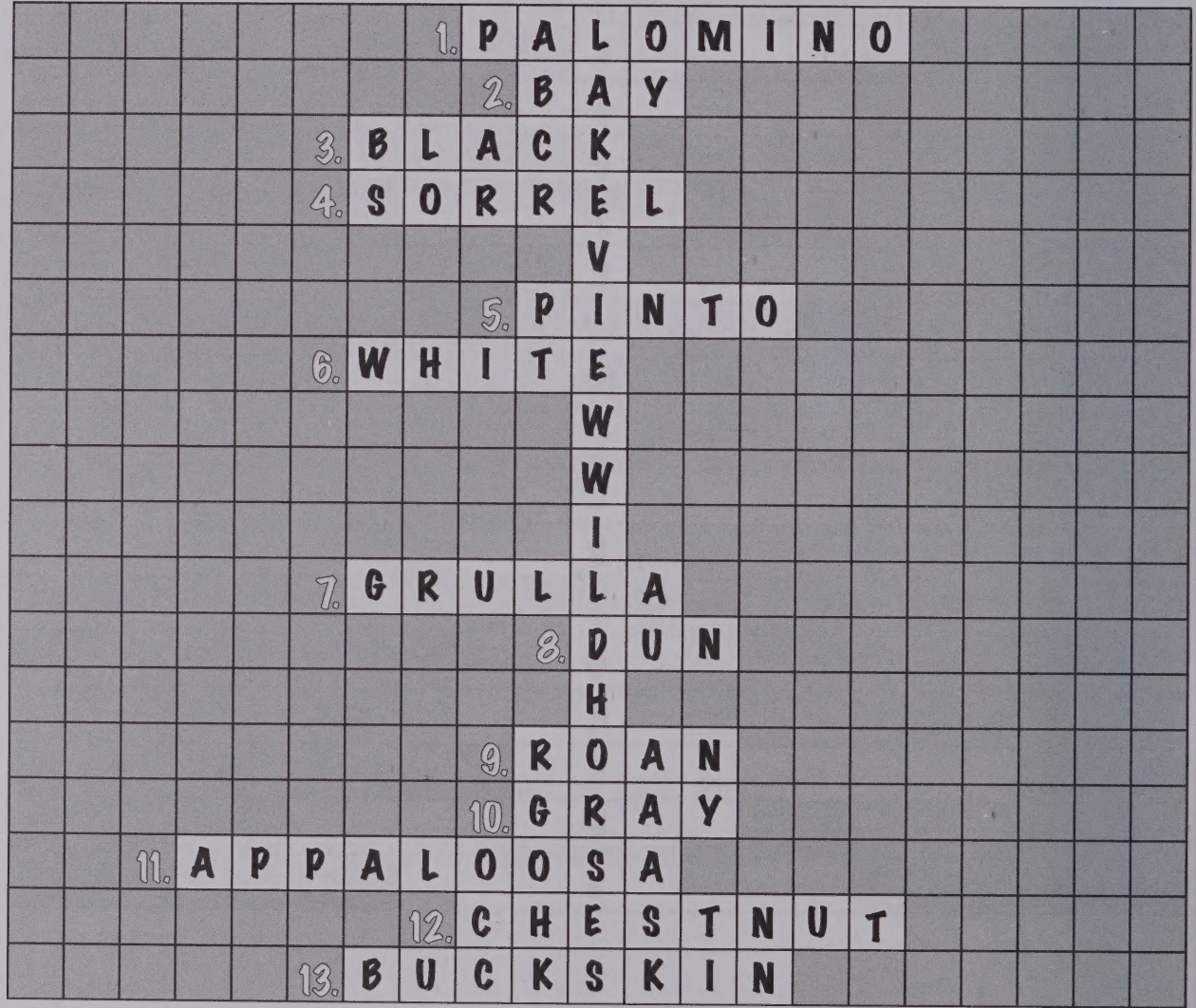
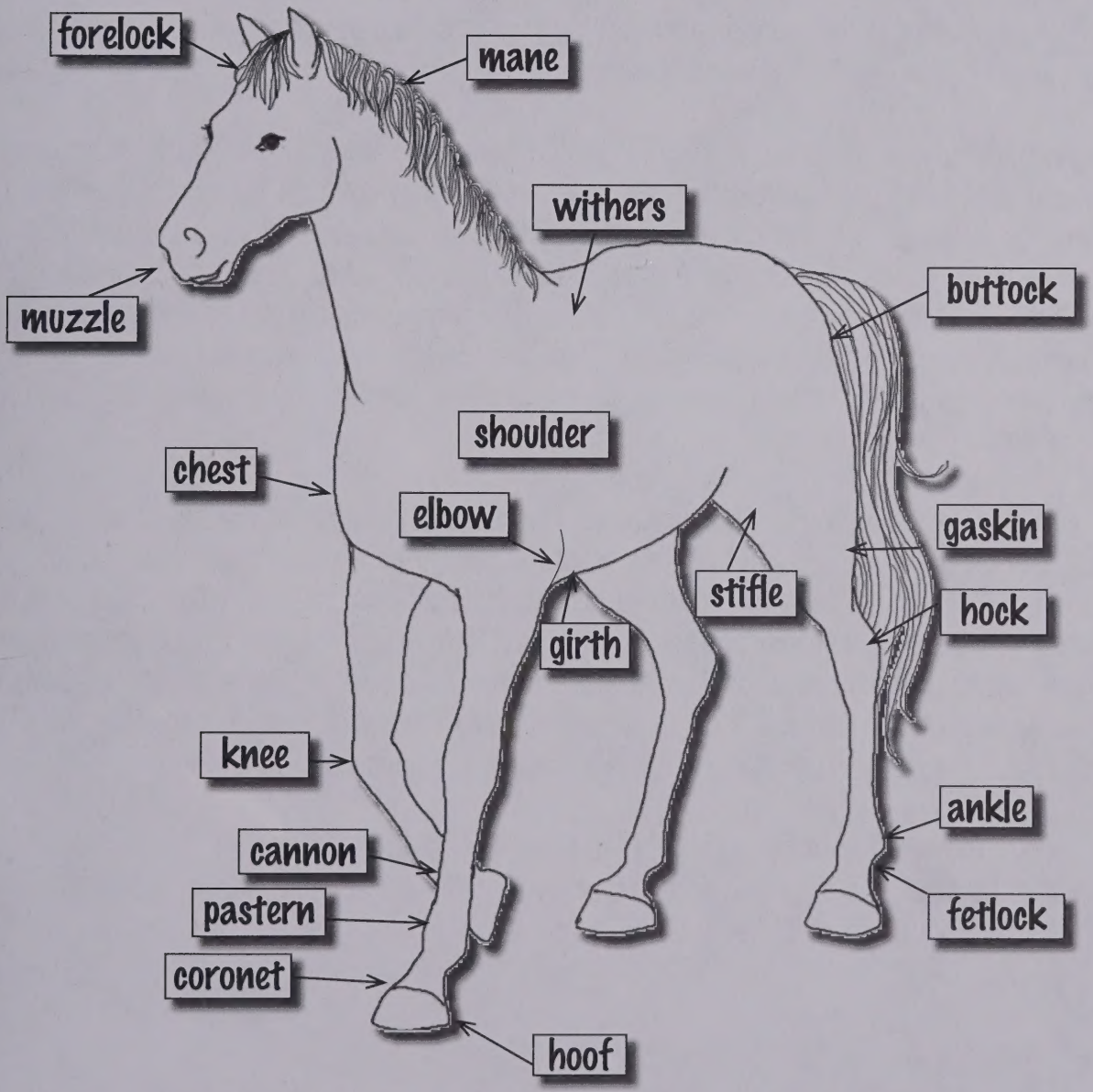
Answers to Word Puzzle

... learning about wild horse colors



Anatomy

... learning about body parts



Wild Horses & Burros

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing the nation's public lands. The wild horses and burros on the public rangelands are managed consistent with BLM's multiple use mission that takes into consideration natural resources such as wildlife and vegetation and other users such as livestock & recreationists.

Oregon's public lands are home to over 2,600 wild horses, managed by the BLM in accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 that gives the agency the mandate for "protection, management, and control" of the animals. Oregon's wild horses are descendants of domestic horses that escaped to or were turned out on the public lands prior to passage of the "Act." Wild horses are managed in 21 active Herd Management Areas (HMAs), primarily in eastern Oregon. Herd Management Area Plans have carefully defined objectives and management guidelines designed to assure the needs of the animals are met while other land uses and resource values are not adversely affected.

Because there are few natural predators of wild horses and most herds increase at an average of 20 percent per year, excess wild horses must periodically be removed from their HMA to assure the health of the land is maintained and to minimize conflicts with wildlife and domestic livestock using the same lands. On the average, each HMA is gathered every four years unless a natural catastrophe such as wildfire or drought intervenes. Excess animals are made available to the public through the National Adopt-A-Horse and Burro Program. In an average year, the BLM finds homes for over 350 Oregon wild horses through the adoption program.

For more information on adopting a wild horse call (541) 573-4439 or (541) 573-4456 weekdays between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or write to Bureau of Land Management, Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738.

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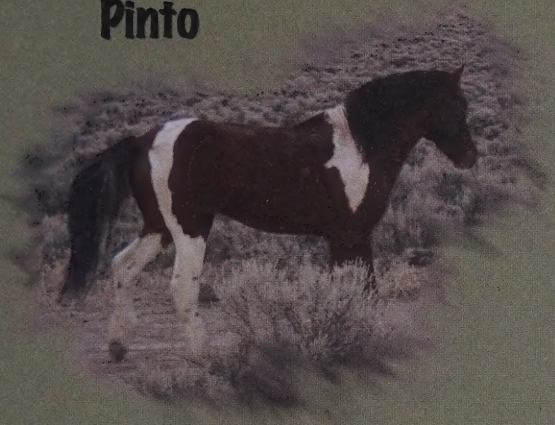
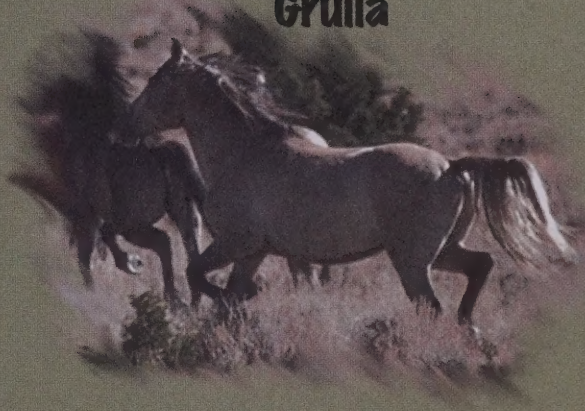
Pinto



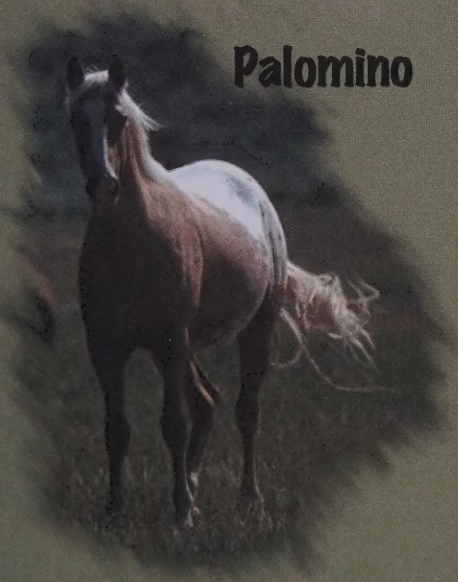
Buckskin

Chestnut

Grulla



Palomino



Sorrel

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